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CENTENARY YEAR

1863-1963

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TRAWDEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963

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TRAWDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council - W. F. Morville, J.P.

Health Committee.

G. Bolton (Chairman).

G. Bannister.

D. Barber.

A. Birtwistle.

C. E. Birkett (to 20.5.63).

W. Crowther.

P. Gorman.

W. F. Morville, J.P.

A. H. Robson.

A. T. Shuttleworth.

S. Smith.

K. Tunnacliffe.

Clerk of the Council.

William R. Fisher.

Medical Officer of Health.

John V. Dyer, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

R. H. Short, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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Council Offices,
Trawden Forest,
Colne.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1963. The form and content is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/64 dated 13th January 1964.

There can be few other Medical Officers who can so proudly bring to the notice of their Committee that in the District there were, during 1963, and for the second year in succession, no maternal deaths, still births, or deaths of babies under one year of age. What is more, there were no illegitimate births and only one notified case of infectious disease.

This fine record is only fitting for our Centenary Year.

Two events during the year were unique in the history of Trawden, the long cruel winter when some roads were impassable for many weeks, but fortunately no tragedies came to light; and the attempt to find oil on Widdop Moor. To our disappointment, after drilling for several thousand feet, the project was abandoned.

I was delighted to see a degree of improvement in the unhappy squalor of Wycoller after my comments in last year's Report. More could be done, finances permitting.

Trawden is a happy community. It is fortunate in having two people who, in their well known characteristic manner, have done far more than is generally known to help anyone in need, trouble or difficulties. I refer of course to your Vicar and Police Officer, Mr. Robins and Mr. Littler, and surely need not elaborate further.

My sincere thanks once again go to my colleague, Mr. Short, who carries the weight of work in the Department, as both Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, and I acknowledge with gratitude the continued interest and encouragement of the Health Committee.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. Dyer,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (acres)	---	---	---	---	---	6,815
Population (census 1951)	---	---	---	---	---	2,114
" (census 1961)	---	---	---	---	---	1,951
" (Mid 1963) - Registrar General's Estimate						1,923
Number of inhabited houses (census 1961)				---	---	742
" " " " 1963	---	---	---	---	---	748
Rateable Value	---	---	---	---	---	£38,139
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	---	---	---			£143-6-11

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. Being of only modest size there is a well developed community spirit and a high degree of self-help.

There is very little unemployment; indeed there is a daily influx of workers to the town from neighbouring districts.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are textile manufacture, agriculture, light engineering, and laundering.

				Males	Females	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	---	---	---	20	12	32
" " (Illegitimate)	---	---	---	-	-	-
				20	12	32

Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate---	---	---	---	---	---	16.8
Adjusted Rate (Comparability factor 1.26)				---		21.2

Still Births --- --- --- --- --- --- Nil.

				Males	Females	Total.
Deaths (All causes)	---	---	---	14	13	27
Deaths from Maternal causes	---	---		-	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)	---	---		Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)	---			Nil	Nil	Nil

Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate ---	---	---	---	---	---	14.2
Adjusted Rate (Comparability factor 0.92)				---		13.4

Classification of Causes of Death during 1963.

	Males	Females	Total.
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	3	8
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	3	6
Coronary Disease; Angina	2	-	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	1	4	5
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Accidents	1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	2	3
	14	13	27

COMPARITIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1959 - 1963.

Year	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	
					Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year
1963	32	Nil	27	Nil	Nil	Nil
1962	28	Nil	35	Nil	Nil	Nil
1961	31	Nil	28	Nil	2	2
1960	29	Nil	32	Nil	Nil	Nil
1959	17	1	34	Nil	1	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The main work of the Health Department concerns the control of infectious diseases and the environment - a service directly controlled by the Council.

The present section of the Report relates to those health services which concern the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than the population as a whole. The majority of these services are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, which has delegated much of the day-to-day administration to the Divisional Health Committee (No.6) on which Trawden has a representative. Co-ordination of the services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health acts also as Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III.

1. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children:-

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics - Maternity Home, Colne.

Mothercraft Class - Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.

Child Welfare and Immunisation - Co-op Rooms, Trawden.

(alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)

- Hartley Hospital, Colne.

(alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)

2. Domiciliary Midwifery - two midwives are resident in Colne.

3. Health Visiting - from Bank House, Colne.

4. Home Nursing - Trawden is served by a District Nurse.

5. Home Help Service including night service.

6. Ambulance Service - Trawden is served from the Colne Ambulance Station.
All vehicles are under radio control.

7. Mental Health - care, supervision and after-care of the Mentally Ill and subnormal. A training centre is available at Nelson.

8. Prevention of Illness - care and after-care. This includes Health Education, convalescent care, prevention and care of Tuberculosis, Chiropody, and loan of nursing equipment.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Welfare Services.

1. Homes for the aged - there are five homes in the Division belonging to the Lancashire County Council; in addition, two private homes for the aged, which are registered and regularly inspected.

2. Temporary accommodation is provided by the County Council for cases of urgent need, such as eviction, fire, flooding, etc.

3. Handicapped persons - registers are kept so that all may be acquainted with and have the benefits of the help available. This includes occupational therapy, holiday schemes, and membership of one of the clubs, the nearest being at the British Legion Headquarters, Colne.

4. Section 47. No action was necessary during the year.

Education Act, 1944 - School Health Service.

The School Nurse is also the District Health Visitor and thus knows all the children from babyhood. She and the School Medical Officer visit the Trawden School regularly. In addition to the routine medical and dental inspections of children, various clinics, some attended by visiting specialists, are provided for the correction and treatment of certain defects.

Hospitals and Laboratory.

Hospital facilities for the Urban District are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Patients with infectious diseases who cannot be suitably cared for at home would go to the Marsden Hospital.

Maternity Homes are available at Colne, Nelson and Burnley.

Pathological specimens and food samples are examined at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As in the previous year 1963 was remarkable for the absence of infectious disease in the town. Only one patient with a notifiable illness was reported; this was measles.

The number of Notifiable Diseases notified in the past five years is as follows:-

1963	---	---	1
1962	---	---	1
1961	---	---	6
1960	---	---	43
1959	---	---	13

In an area such as Trawden the great majority of school children will all attend the school in the town, and so not come into regular contact with infectious diseases endemic in larger urban areas. But when an infection is introduced, there will be a sudden and all embracing epidemic, which only abates when the supply of contacts is exhausted.

For this reason we must not relax our aim to have every baby protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, and tetanus (lock-jaw). The young mothers of today have never known the tragedies of diphtheria, and we hope that our children will not know that of poliomyelitis.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at child welfare centres.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was required in 1963.

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1963.

Dr. J. V. Dyer,
Medical Officer of Health,
Trawden U. D. C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year ended
31st December 1963.

Steady progress has been maintained in the improvement of
housing conditions, largely due to the grant aided work carried out under
the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

It is unfortunate that a number of pail closets continue to
exist, but in a semi-rural area such as the Trawden U. D. conservancy to
some degree is inevitable. Little progress has been made in the
conversion of waste water closets, and it is regrettable that approximately
20% of the sanitary accommodation of the District is of this obsolete and
insanitary type in this age of television, transistor radios, automatic
washing machines, fast cars, and other domestic marvels.

It is with a certain pride that I find myself the officer
responsible for the making of this Report for the year which marks the
centenary of the establishment of local government in Trawden, and I
wish to thank you for your advice and encouragement, the Health Committee
for their support, and the Council's staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Short,

Public Health Inspector.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Public Supply.

The mains water for the Urban District is derived from
springs on Boulsworth Hill, now under the jurisdiction of the North Calder
Water Board, which was established on 1st October 1960. The area of the
Board includes Trawden, Colne, Nelson, Barrowford, Brierfield, and parts
of Burnley R. D.

During the year 24 samples of water from the public supply
were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 4 for Chemical Analysis.
The supply is adequate, soft, and of good quality.

No. of houses supplied	---	---	---	674
No. of business premises supplied	---	---	---	61
No. of places of worship supplied	---	---	---	7

Hardness of Mains Water.

			Parts per
			100,000
Temporary Hardness (removeable by boiling)	---	---	16.00
Permanent " (after boiling)	---	---	6.60
			<hr/>
Total Hardness	---	---	22.60

Private Water Supplies.

81 houses and farms, which have no public main within
a reasonable distance are supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers of the District discharge into the Colne Corporation sewer at Cottontree, via a Lea Recorder, and treatment is carried out by Colne Corporation under agreement.

There are approximately $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles of sewers in the District.

In March a total obstruction of the sewer in Skipton Road resisted all attempts to remove it by conventional methods, and it was found necessary to call in a specialist firm to deal with the emergency. Power boring of the sewer was carried out throughout the night in order to remove the obstruction, which was estimated to be in the order of six feet in length. Owing to the depth and situation of the sewer, opening up would have been uneconomical, and would have caused great inconvenience to traffic over a long period.

The principal cause of sewer blockages is cotton waste, and an appeal was sent to all the cotton manufacturers in the District requesting their co-operation in preventing the ingress of waste into the sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of the rivers and streams in the District occurred during the year. When necessary, the Lancashire River Board is notified in the event of pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Of the 85 properties on the conservancy system, 30 are within the village area, the remainder being outlying farms and cottages. Conversion of the majority of these to fresh water closets could only be effected by the installation of small-scale sewage disposal plants, the comparatively high cost of which would appear to deter many house owners. The Council make a grant of £5 towards the cost of converting a pail closet.

Progress in the conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets has been slower this year, and there still remains a total of 160 waste water closets in the District. No grant is made by the Council for these conversions unless such work comes within the scope of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Sanitary Accommodation at the end of 1963:-

Pail Closets	---	---	---	---	---	85
Waste Water Closets	---	---	---	---	---	160
Fresh Water Closets	---	---	---	---	---	676
Pail Closets converted during the year	---	---	---	---	---	Nil
Waste Water Closets converted during the year						4

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse is carried out fortnightly from approximately 800 ashbins, using a 2/3 ton Bedford side-loader. Disposal is by tipping in a disused quarry at Winewall. During the year a bulldozer was hired to improve the tip site. An agreement exists between the Council and the site owner for the better control of the tip.

The scheme instituted in 1962 for the recovery and sale of waste paper continues to prove successful and worthwhile. The reduction in the quantity of paper deposited on the tip has assisted considerably in dealing with the fire problem. The total quantity of paper recovered during the year was 21 tons 8 cwt.

A charge of 2/- per bin is made for the collection of trade waste.

Street scavenging is carried out by manual labour at regular intervals, with the assistance of a pedestrian controlled motor broom.

The Council hire a motor gully emptier from a neighbouring authority for the periodic cleansing of road gullies.

The pail closets in the area, except a number in outlying situations are serviced weekly by private contractor.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council own and maintain two modern public conveniences and one public urinal, and these are cleansed weekly. Public conveniences, utilising pail closets are also maintained at Wycoller.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections have been made of the shops and offices in the area, and no legal action has been necessary. New legislation concerning shops and offices is due to come into force during 1964 in the form of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1964.

FACTORIES.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1959.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	13	29	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	13	29	-	-

In no cases were defects found. There were no outworkers resident in the district.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property		
	Dwelling Houses	All Others.	Agricultural
No. of properties in District	728	230	71
No. of properties inspected	93	49	16
Total inspections	97	54	18
No. of properties inspected found to be infested by:			
Rats - major	-	-	-
minor	1	3	1
Mice - major	-	-	-
minor	4	1	1
No. of infested premises treated	5	4	2
Total treatments	5	5	2
No. of "block" control schemes	-	-	-

Treatment of Sewers for Rats.

Baiting of the sewers for rats was carried out during the year, using a ready-mix of Warfarin '5', pinhead oatmeal, castor sugar, technical white oil, and paranitrophenol. Once again the results indicated a very minor infestation of the sewers.

It was not found necessary to take legal action under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956.

There are 3 factory chimneys in the District which have been under observation. It has not been found necessary to take action under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

DISINFESTATION.

Where necessary the extermination of insect pests is carried out by the use of insecticidal smoke generators and sprays, the method used depending on the circumstances. It is encouraging to note that there were no cases of infestation requiring treatment by the Local Authority.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the area are generally good. A large proportion of the houses are old and of the terrace type, but the majority of these are well maintained and owners continue to modernise them, providing amenities formerly lacking.

The Low Street area, consisting mainly of very old sub-standard back-to-back houses, has continued to receive the attention of the Council during the year. A closing order was made in respect of one house, and the Council have now acquired control of 24 others, 19 of which have been closed, pending demolition. It is anticipated that the demolition of some of this property will be carried out during 1964.

Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses	---	---	---	---	---	748
" " dwelling-houses inspected	---	---	---	---	---	67
" " houses closed	---	---	---	---	---	10
" " " demolished	---	---	---	---	---	-
" " back-to-back houses	---	---	---	---	---	47
" " other houses with no through ventilation	---	---	---	---	---	56

Standard Grants. (House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959)

Applications submitted to Local Authority	---	---	---	---	11
" approved by " "	---	---	---	---	11
Work completed and grants paid	---	---	---	---	10

Overcrowding.

There were no cases of overcrowding requiring action by the Council.

New Houses.

During the year the construction of two new houses was completed by a private builder on land at Skipton Road.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply in the area is generally satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

There are six premises registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Regular inspections have been made during the year. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area. Four mobile ice cream vendors from the areas of neighbouring Authorities trade in the District.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The standard of cleanliness and food handling practice of traders in the District is generally good, and it has not been necessary to serve any notices. An improvement is to be noted in the methods of display of open foods, some traders having provided glass cases for this purpose.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There are no caravan or camping sites, no common-lodging houses, no houses let in multiple occupation, and no offensive trades in the District.

